

Remarks

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed on May 3, 2004. Claims 1-4 are currently pending, claims 1-4 have been amended, and claims 5-9 have been added. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that the application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters. Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in complete condition for allowance and requests reconsideration of the application in this regard.

Claim 1 is objected to because of an informality and claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as lacking antecedent basis for certain limitations. Applicant has amended claims 1-3 to correct the informality and to provide proper antecedent basis as appropriate. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to claim 1 and the rejection of claims 1-3 be withdrawn.

Applicant submits that new claims 5-9, which depend either directly or indirectly from a now-allowable independent claim 1, are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1. In addition, these new claims will not require a further search as each depends either directly or indirectly from the now-allowable independent claim 1 and will require no additional substantive examination. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner enter and allow these new claims.

Applicant has also amended the specification to correct certain typographical and stylistic errors. No "new matter" has been introduced by these corrections.

Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in complete condition for allowance. Early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested upon receipt and entry of this amendment.

Applicant does not believe that any fees are due in connection with this submission. However, if such petition is due or any additional fees are necessary, the Commissioner may consider this to be a request for such and charge any necessary fees to Deposit Account No. 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

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